

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 663

To amend the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 to provide for an exception to limited eligibility for the supplemental security income program for permanent resident aliens.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 10, 1997

Mrs. MEEK of Florida introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To amend the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 to provide for an exception to limited eligibility for the supplemental security income program for permanent resident aliens.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Legal Immigrants’
5 Fairness Act of 1997”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress makes the following
8 findings:

1 (1) The Federal Supplemental Security Income
2 (SSI) program provides monthly cash payments to
3 needy persons who are at least 65, blind, or dis-
4 abled. Persons who receive SSI payments are also el-
5 igible for medicaid.

6 (2) In the summer of 1996 Congress enacted
7 the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity
8 Reconciliation Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–193),
9 whose primary purpose is to allow the States to de-
10 velop programs to move persons from welfare to
11 work.

12 (3) One provision of that law eliminates supple-
13 mental security income benefits for most needy legal
14 United States residents who are aged, blind, or dis-
15 abled.

16 (4) The Congressional Budget Office estimated
17 that such provision will cut about 500,000 needy
18 legal residents from the SSI rolls, thereby saving the
19 Federal Government about \$13,000,000,000 in SSI
20 payments through the year 2002 and about
21 \$5,000,000,000 in medicaid payments through the
22 year 2002.

23 (5) Such provision will not bring these aged,
24 blind, and disabled persons into the labor force. In-
25 stead, its principal impact will be to shift the fiscal

1 responsibility for these needy people from the Fed-
 2 eral Government to State and local governments.

3 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to restore
 4 supplemental security income and medicaid to needy per-
 5 manent residents who are aged, blind, or disabled.

6 **SEC. 3. EXCEPTION TO LIMITED ELIGIBILITY FOR THE SUP-**
 7 **PLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME PROGRAM**
 8 **FOR PERMANENT RESIDENT ALIENS.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 402(a)(2) of the Personal
 10 Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act
 11 of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1612(a)(2)) is amended by adding after
 12 subparagraph (D) the following new subparagraph:

13 “(E) SSI FOR PERMANENT RESIDENT
 14 ALIENS.—With respect to eligibility for benefits
 15 under paragraph (3)(A) (relating to the supple-
 16 mental security income program), paragraph
 17 (1) shall not apply to an alien who is lawfully
 18 admitted for permanent residence under the
 19 Immigration and Nationality Act.”.

20 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
 21 subsection (a) shall be effective as if included in the enact-
 22 ment of title IV of the Personal Responsibility and Work
 23 Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996.

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